



STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
LANSING



THOMAS D. WATKINS, JR.  
SUPERINTENDENT OF  
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM  
GOVERNOR

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** State Board of Education

**FROM:** Thomas D. Watkins, Jr., Chairman

**DATE:** November 5, 2003

**SUBJECT:** Approval of Revised Criteria for the Title III Grant Fund

The *No Child Left Behind Act of 2001* includes a grant under Title III for language instruction for limited English proficient (LEP) students and services for immigrant students. The State Board of Education approved the following criteria for the allocation of Title III grant funds on September 12, 2002:

- Eighty-five percent (85%) of the Title III funds will be designated for English language instruction for LEP students and 15% for services for immigrant students.
- Subgrants for English language instruction for LEP students will be distributed on a per pupil basis.
- Grants for services for immigrant students will be awarded on a per pupil basis to school districts and public school academies with at least 20 immigrant students and an increase in the immigrant student population for each of the two preceding years with the percentage increase for at least one of those years being greater than the average percentage increase for the state. A minimum grant award will be established at \$10,000.

The Title III legislation permits each state to determine the percentage of funds that will be allocated for services to immigrant students, up to a maximum of 15%. Any funds that are allocated for these services must be based on the above criteria.

In attempting to allocate funds for 2003-04, staff has learned that the requirement for an increase in the immigrant student population will exclude 21 of the 23 districts that serve at least 20 immigrant students and 93% of the immigrant student population. Most of these students are also limited English proficient and would be served if the funds were allocated under the LEP subgrants.

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Staff recommends a revision to the formula that would allocate 100% of the Title III funds under the LEP subgrants if the immigrant portion of the formula does not reach at least 50% of the eligible students.

The revised formula would be as follows (changes in bold):

- A **minimum of eighty-five percent (85%)** of the Title III funds will be designated for English language instruction for LEP students and a **maximum of 15%** for services for immigrant students. **One hundred percent (100%) of the funds will be used for English language instruction subgrants for LEP students if the immigrant portion of the formula excludes more than 50% of the eligible students.**
- Subgrants for English language instruction for LEP students will be distributed on a per pupil basis.
- Grants for services for immigrant students will be awarded on a per pupil basis to school districts and public school academies with at least 20 immigrant students and an increase in the immigrant student population for each of the two preceding years with the percentage increase for at least one of those years being greater than the average percentage increase for the state. A minimum grant award will be established at \$10,000.

It is recommended that the State Board of Education approve the revised criteria for the Title III grant funds as described in the Superintendent's memorandum dated November 5, 2003.